(c) if so, by when action will be taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The amount of funds released for development of airports in the North Eastern region (in crores of rupees) in the Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. during 1997-2001 for each airport are as follows: 18.39 for Agartala, 0.27 for Aizawl, 0.04 for Barapani, 1.38 for Dibrugarh, 3.09 for Dimapur, 37.73 for Guwahati, 26.65 for Imphal, 23.63 for Lilabari, 5.90 for Silchar and 18.84 for Tezpur.

(b) and (c) Night landing facilities are, at present, available at Dibrugarh, Imphal, Dimapur, Agartala and Guwahati airports. Night operations through Guwahati and Agartala has been approved. Night operations through Dimapur and Imphal are not possible due to terrain conditions.

**Refund against lost tickets**

2431. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has termed as archaic the cancellation and refund regulations of Indian Airlines since refund was allowed only if original tickets were produced and the conditions for refund appeared to be unfair trade practice in the case of Indian Airlines v/s N.N. Kini who lost his ticket in 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Indian Airlines is considering a proposal to amend the rules regarding refund against a lost ticket?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Consumer Disputes Redressal, New Delhi while passing order in favour of Indian Airlines in a case of refund against lost ticket made an obsrvation that the Rule of no refund against lost ticket is archaic in today's situation when there is explosion in communication and spread of vast computer network in the country.

(c) No, Sir. The present level of automation communication and computerization of the passenger transactions in Indian Airlines is not sufficient to provide, without the possibility of misuse by unscrupulous persons intending to cause loss of revenue, spot refund in the case of lost domestic tickets.

Indian Airlines makes refund against lost domestic ticket within a specified period after completion of necessary formalities. Refund against lost international ticket is, however, made on the spot.

**Cess for Bangalore Airport Project**

2432. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought the clearance for collecting a cess of Rs. 100 per passenger for the proposed Bangalore Airport Project; and

(b) if so, the action, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Government of Karnataka has sought the approval of Central Government for the levy of a fee of Rs. 100 per user at the existing airport in Bangalore to help in meeting the State Government's financial support requirements for the proposed Bangalore Interna- tional Airport.

(b) No final decision has been taken in this regard?

**Sales Tax exemption to Foreign Airlines on ATF Purchases**

2433. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on exempting the foreign airlines from payment of sales tax on ATF purchases;

(b) whether it is a fact that huge amount of arrears have accumulated on account of non-payment of taxes because of the twin factors of levy of taxes;

(c) whether the domestic airlines are also expected to benefit from such exemption from payment of taxes on ATF;

(d) whether it will have any impact on the fares being reduced by the domestic airlines; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) A Bill has been introduced in Parliament to enact a legislation under Article 253 of the Constitution to exempt from all duties and taxes, the fuel and lubricants uplifted